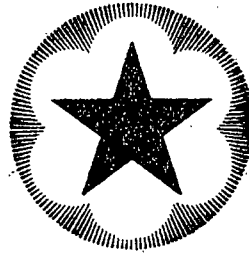


12.3.95

June 1975

SEATTLE
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
DEPOT

- * INFORMATION AND NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S QUARTERMASTER AND MEDICAL SUPPLY INSTALLATION.
- * SCOPE OF MISSION AND ACTIVITIES.
- * RECEIVING, STORAGE AND SHIPPING OPERATIONS.
- * PROCUREMENT AND INSPECTION OF SUPPLIES.
- * ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.
- * HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE DEPOT.

PREPARED BY
HEADQUARTERS SEATTLE ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

4735 E. MARGINAL WAY, SEATTLE 4, WASH. PHONE MA-0100, EXT. 3703

USEPA SF



1215743

HEADQUARTERS SEATTLE ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE 4735 E. MARGINAL WAY SEATTLE, 4, WASHINGTON. PHONE MA-0100, EXT. 3703

Information and Notes of Interest About
 SEATTLE ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT

June, 1945.

STRATEGIC LOCATION FOR PACIFIC SUPPLY

The Seattle Army Service Forces Depot, present embodiment of an original army supply installation set up in Seattle in 1897 by the Quartermaster Corps, since Pearl Harbor has grown from a relatively small organization of 42 persons to the present organization of approximately 150 army officers and 2800 civilian employees, as the result of its strategic location for supply of troops in Alaska and the Pacific.

Today, with a modernly equipped and modernly operated facility, it pours into the fight a good share of the millions of tons of food, clothing, personal equipment, and medical supplies required by the Army to destroy the military might of Japan.

Operations may be compared roughly to those of a combination mail order and wholesale distributing concern in civilian activity. The depot, in fact, is the largest supply house--military or civilian--in the Pacific Northwest.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES

The Army is composed of three major commands; the Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces and Army Service Forces.

Supply and service organizations are groups under the Army Service Forces, which comprises seven technical services. These are commanded by the Quartermaster General, the Surgeon General, Chief of Ordnance, Chief of Engineers, Chief of Chemical Warfare Service, Chief Signal Officer and Chief of Transportation.

ARMY DEPOTS ARE OF SEVERAL TYPES

Army depots are supply establishments maintained primarily for the purpose of receiving, storing and distributing supplies. They may also perform other functions such as procurement, manufacturing and miscellaneous services as directed by proper authority.

Depending upon its location, a depot is either a Theater of Operations or a Zone of the Interior depot. Zone of the Interior depots are of two types: (1) Army Service depots which have been placed under one technical service for administration and in which operating space is assigned to two or more technical services, and (2) Branch depots, being those depot assigned for the exclusive use of one technical service.

Since this depot is occupied by Quartermaster and Medical technical supply units, it is known as an Army Service Forces installation. It is administered by the Quartermaster General, that is, the provision of buildings and facilities, their repair and upkeep, supply of personnel and operating supplies and equipment, are performed by the depot headquarters. The operating supply units are the Quartermaster Section, headed by the Quartermaster Supply Officer, and the Medical Section under the Medical Supply Officer. The depot as a whole is commanded by Col. F.B.L. Myer.

MISSION OF THE DEPOT

Mission of the Quartermaster Section is to provide Quartermaster supplies and equipment to troops overseas who are supplied through Seattle and Portland Ports of Embarkation. This section also supplies certain domestic stations nearby, however, domestic shipments represent approximately 10 percent of the section's activity.

The Medical Section has an overseas supply function parallel to that of

the Quartermaster Section, supplying troops in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater through Seattle Port of Embarkation. The medical section also distributes supplies and equipment to army hospitals and installations in Washington and Oregon. Over 75 percent of medical supply from this depot goes overseas.

Seattle Army Service Forces depot and Seattle Port of Embarkation are separate commands. The Transportation Corps, which operates the port, acts as carrying agent or common carrier for all army movement of materiel and personnel.

RECEIVING, STORAGE, SHIPPING OPERATIONS

Extensive employment of mechanized materials handling equipment, organized training of supervisors, constant operations study and work simplification have been responsible for bringing the rated warehouse operation efficiency of the Quartermaster Section up to first place among similar units in the 11 Army Service Forces depots throughout the United States, according to reports recently compiled by the Quartermaster General.

Improvements in methods of handling work in both supply sections and in the headquarters unit enabled the depot as a whole to reduce its total manpower strength one third between midyear 1943 and midyear 1944. This reduction in force was accompanied by an increase of approximately 25 percent in tonnage handled.

In time of peace, approximately 2,000 square feet of gross building space was occupied by the depot. Now a total area of approximately 1,500,000 square feet is occupied at the depot proper. Approximately that amount of additional space is utilized at other army storage points in the Pacific Northwest.

In the year 1939 the depot received and shipped 554 carloads of freight. In the single month of November 1944, it received and shipped 250 carloads. Today's figures cannot be made public.

The Quartermaster Supply Section has become the largest distributor of supplies in the Pacific Northwest and in its warehouses are stored over 11,000 separate kinds of Quartermaster items.

MANPOWER AND WORKLOAD

It is to be noted that although the volume of work handled at Seattle Army Service Forces depot steadily increased in 1944 and 1945 over that in 1943, a reduction in military and civilian force has been effected since 1943. This has been done through increased operating efficiency due to almost exclusive palletization of stock and extensive mechanized handling, the institution of an employee training school, scientific operation and procedure study and preplanning of work.

In 1944 the increased work load demanded additional laborers. Due to the critical manpower shortage in the Seattle area this manpower was not available from the civilian population, so it became necessary to assign two Italian Service Units (companies) to the depot to keep supplies moving to the army's fighting forces. These units provide approximately 35 percent of the depot's unskilled labor.

During the time that the workload was increasing and civilian strength being reduced, employment of women increased substantially. Today, approximately 60 percent of civilian employees at the installation are women.

The depot has not been a big consumer of Seattle civilian manpower. With the present force it is now just able to keep abreast of requirements. No "cushion" of manpower is maintained. Enlargement of the depot's task-- that is, increased tonnage to be handled and a larger amount of supplies to be processed--will mean a call for additional manpower to help move more needed supplies to the battle areas.

QUARTERMASTER PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING

Procurement officers in the Quartermaster section of the depot have been active in encouraging small plants to manufacture the kinds of supplies required in the war effort, and a large percentage of all depot contracts are let directly to such plants.

Because of close association of Northwest manufacturers with Alaska, and because of their industrial capacity, Seattle and Portland plants have been called upon by the Quartermaster Corps to make many different items of temperate and cold climate clothing and equipment.

One of the largest Quartermaster contracting activities in the Northwest has been that for the repair of 55-gallon petroleum product drums. Under the direction of the Quartermaster supply officer these drums are refilled at the plants of local oil companies for reshipment to overseas points where no tanker discharging facilities exist. The drums are brought to Seattle on the return trip by supplying ships which use them, filled with water, for ballast. Empty drums have also been used by ships on these return trips as insurance against sinking when hit, since the drums provide individual air spaces in ships' holds. Similar operations are being carried out at other points on the coastal United States. The Quartermaster Procurement Officer estimates that in Seattle alone, approximately three million dollars has been saved by this reclamation work, although the practice was inaugurated principally as a metal conservation measure.

Early in the war, the Quartermaster Section procured large quantities of coal for use in Alaska as well as for Ninth Service Command. In making the early purchases, the depot tapped every available source in the Rocky Mountains and far western states, and obtained 115,000 tons from the vicinity of the Great Lakes, originating in sources as far east as West Virginia. The purchase of this coal was a prodigious task and had to be accomplished despite the exhaustion of normal sources of supply.

It was complicated by the necessity for sacking approximately 1,000 tons of coal per day (about 20,000 sacks) for overseas shipment. Today the depot continues to purchase large quantities of coal, mostly for posts, camps, and stations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, ^{Nebraska} Nevada, Utah and Montana.

INSPECTION OF GOODS PURCHASED

June 1945 *84578* *P.R. Office*
Information Bulletin
p.6.

To speed up and otherwise expedite the delivery of supplies and equipment from contractors to the army, the Quartermaster Corps has centralized procurement of a number of critical items. Under this centralization, various depots have the responsibility of procuring all of the army's needs for paper--as an example--or for materials handling equipment. Much of the material so purchased is accepted by the army at the plant where it is inspected by a government representative.

The Army Service Forces depot is the headquarters for Seattle Quartermaster Inspection Zone, which includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and British Columbia. This unit employs civilian specialists who either make inspection trips to plants or who are stationed permanently at a producing plant. The zone office directs the inspection of all "acceptance at plant" procurements in the area described. The zone office has a staff of civilian specialists and technicians for clothing, individual equipment, mechanized and refrigerated equipment, lumber, and lumber products, paper, food, textile yardage, knitted goods, fur, canvas and tannage, et

VETERINARY CORPS INSPECTS ARMY'S FOOD

While Quartermaster zone inspectors pass on the acceptability of certain ration items, all food of animal or marine origin is inspected by the Veterinary Corps of the army. A veterinary division of the depot is comprised of a detachment of officers and enlisted men who examine all meat, dairy and poultry products, and fish and fish products, or food products containing these items.

Veterinary Corps inspectors are either stationed at or make inspection trips to all points of origin of storage of food purchased by the army in the Northwest. Periodic inspections of food purchased by the army are made by Veterinary Corps officers.

Inspection of salmon is a large part of the detachment's task, although many other products being produced in the Northwest pass under its watchful eye.

A modern food analysis and bacteriology laboratory at the depot is manned by chemists and bacteriologists working under Veterinary officers.

COFFEE ROASTING AND GRINDING

Important in Quartermaster subsistence activities is the operation of a modern coffee roasting and grinding plant, installed at the depot in 1942. Over one and a half million pounds of coffee are roasted, ground and packaged each month. Coffee to be shipped overseas is vacuum packed in 20 pound cans.

MEDICAL SUPPLY ACTIVITIES

The Medical Section of Seattle A.S.F. depot was established in 1941, and since that time it has been serving Alaska, various points in the Pacific Theater and the hospitals and medical groups in the states of Washington and Oregon.

The Medical section can supply anything from a tiny surgeon's needle to equipment for a 1,000 bed hospital on short notice. In its large warehouse, emergency orders for vitally needed medicines and equipment can be filled in a matter of minutes.

The most modern medical and dental equipment available today may be obtained from the Seattle unit for Army personnel here and abroad. The tremendous strides in the advancement of medicine during the war has added many new life-saving items to the stock lists of the warehouse here.

The entire stock of medical supplies is packaged for overseas shipment in weatherproof containers, since over 75 percent of it goes abroad. Surgical instruments are specially processed by the depot medical unit to protect them from extremes of heat and humidity. Facilities for hermitically sealing instruments have been installed in the medical warehouse.

Approximately 2,000 square feet of storage space is occupied by a large walk-in vault, with a combination safe lock. Here narcotics, stimulants and precious metals are stored.

The vault, which contains morphine, cocain, codein--and among other things as much as a carload at a time of bonded whiskey--is never opened without the presence of a Medical Department Officer. Items in the vault are packaged under the personal supervision and checked in and out by the vault officer. "Wholesale" shipments are made under armed guard. Very small shipments are handled on a "hand to hand receipt" basis. One officer has the combination to the vault door and he is responsible for its contents.

In the vault is an interesting item of vital importance to the individual soldier which has been developed in World War II. It is the individual morphine-sulphate syrette, carried in combat by all men. It may be self administered by a wounded soldier to relieve pain and shock.

The Medical Section is headed by an army surgeon, assisted by officers of the Medical Administrative Corps.

RECORDS ON ELECTRIC ACCOUNTING MACHINES

Stock records for both Medical and Quartermaster supply units are maintained by the use of electric accounting machines which do work that would require hundreds of clerks. Furthermore, all of these clerks would not be able to do the work with the speed and accuracy of the machines.

In the consolidated Machine Records Division, as many as 10,000 postings may be made in 24 hours by 50 employees. Among the added advantages is the

fact that the machines print daily catalogs of stocks and the quantity on hand, providing accurate up-to-date supply logistics. These catalogs--called "availability listings"--are used by requisition editors who review incoming requests for supplies, and direct shipments. Reports may be made at any time showing an entire list of items and quantities due to arrive at the depot, as well as listing showing items and quantities due out at any on time. Supplies reserved for particular activities are recorded on separate accounts on the machines. Generally, eighteen such accounts are maintained by the machines, which can post changes and list the amounts on hand, due in and due out on each account.

The card-to-tape machine punches teletype tapes used to telegraph critical item stock balances to Washington, D.C.

Both Medical and Quartermaster Corps records are kept by this one Div.

DEPOT HEADQUARTERS

The depot headquarters consists of staff and service elements which serve the supply units. The headquarters staff includes the commanding officer, executive officer, the adjutant, depot control officer, depot warehouse officer, and public relations officer as well as the heads of the following operating divisions: Personnel, Administrative and Service, Repair and Utilities, Fiscal, Transportation, Maintenance, Machine Records, and Veterinary.

The control staff parallels the "efficiency office" in a large commercial establishment. It measures effectiveness in utilization of personnel, studies work procedures, conducts an extensive work simplification program and compiles depot statistics.

The depot warehouse officer is the commanding officer's staff advisor on matters of warehouse operations and space utilization.

The public relations officer prepares news releases about the depot, arranges depot tours by the general public, publishes the depot house organ,

compiles current data of historical significance for use in promulgating future plans of the army, and in general acts as the depot's official contact with the public.

Personnel Division

The Personnel Division recruits, hires, pays and provides general technical administration for all civilian employees. It also conducts the Civilian Training School. The Employee Relations Branch of the division listens to troubles of employees and assists in straightening them out. It also performs little but important tasks--such as assisting individuals with income tax computations. It obtains auto licenses and registrations, searches for places for employees to live, helps new employees to become adjusted. The Medical Branch provides medical attention for civilian and military personnel.

Labor and Equipment Are Pooled

The Administrative and Service Division includes the executive staff as well as Labor and Equipment, Maintenance, Property Salvage, Safety, Security, and Restaurant Branches. Each operating unit of the depot has a permanent compliment of employees who are supplemented by pooled laborers dispatched--by the Labor and Equipment Branch--from day to day as the work requires in various activities. Mechanized handling equipment is pooled and dispatched daily upon request. The mechanized handling equipment--as well as trucks and cars--are repaired and serviced by the Maintenance Division.

All operating supplies and equipment are provided and accounted for by the Depot Property Branch.

Salvage is Important Operation

Saving of manhours and material is stressed throughout the installation. The Salvage Branch disposes of everything that can be salvaged--waste paper,

sacks, scrap metal, scrap wood, boxes, cloth clippings, fibreboard. Approximately 70 tons of paper is recovered each month, to mention only one of the many items handled in this important activity.

Chief of Repairs and Utilities Division is the Post Engineer, whose responsibility is to maintain all buildings and real property of the depot. This division has carpenter, paint, electric, and metal working shops. The depot fire station is operated by the division, with firefighting and fire prevention measures the responsibility of the depot fire chief, who has two engines and a regular crew of fire fighters at his disposal. Telegraphic fire alarm stations, located throughout the depot, automatically register alarms, and give the location of fires. Fire losses have been negligible since Pearl Harbor.

Getting the depot's bill paid promptly by rapid preparation and certification of vouchers is only part of the work of the Fiscal Division, which also accounts for all government funds under the control of this command.

The Transportation Division directs the spotting of incoming cars, reproduces shipping documents, and bills and routes all outgoing freight. It also physically consolidates LCL shipments into carloads, resulting in substantial money and manpower savings for the country. Truck transportation by commercial and army truck, as well as providing official travel for civilian and military personnel, are also among the important part of the activity directed by Transportation Corps Officers on duty at this installation. Yardmasters of the division work at night with switch engine crews, and by dawn have finished spotting cars for the day's work at warehouses.

Functions of the Veterinary Division, a unit of the depot headquarters have been explained previously in connection with the procurement of Quartermaster supplies.

Emphasis Placed on Safety

Safety saves manhours--and lives. Safety on the job is stressed throughout the installation, and this phase of depot activity gets a great deal of personal attention from the commanding officer. The Safety branch is headed by a civilian specialist who is a staff advisor to the commanding officer. The Seattle Army Service Forces Depot has one of the best safety records in the Ninth Service Command.

The depot Provost Marshal is chief of the security branch which provides the depot guard, furnishes identification for all employees, registers visitors and conducts investigations.

About 5,000 meals are served daily by the depot restaurant, which operates in the matter of rationing under the same restrictions imposed upon similar commercial establishments.

HEADQUARTERS SEATTLE ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE 4735 E. MARGINAL WAY SEATTLE, 4. WASHINGTON. PHONE MA-0100. EXT. 3703

June 1945

HISTORICAL DATA ON SEATTLE ARMY SERVICE FORCES DEPOT QUARTERMASTER

Army Depot activity in Seattle originated in 1896, when offices were opened for the construction of Fort Lawton. From this beginning, expansion was accelerated by the Alaska Gold Rush, commencing in 1897, and by the Spanish-American War.

Following the discovery of gold, soldiers were sent to Alaska to make surveys, to police new mining districts until civil government should be established, and to construct and later to maintain the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System. (It is interesting to note that Chilkoot Barracks, near Skagway, was the first army post permanently established in Alaska and is still active.) Quartermaster supplies for these army needs were assembled and shipped to Alaska from Seattle.

During the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine Insurrection, which followed it, the depot was called upon to procure and ship to the Philippine Islands, horses, mules, forage and lumber needed by the army, the Great Circle sea route from Seattle being chosen for this purpose, rather than the longer route from San Francisco.

In addition to the supply of Alaskan and Far Eastern bases, troops stationed in Oregon, Washington and Idaho were also supplied, and in the years immediately preceding World War I, annual expenditures approximated \$1,700,000.

At the beginning of the first World War the depot personnel consisted of two (2) commissioned officers and thirty-five (35) civilians. During that war this installation was designated a sub-depot of the San Francisco General Depot, and although it was situated far from the fight-

ing fronts, operations in Seattle expanded tremendously. By 1917 the depot was supplying approximately 41,000 soldiers in the Pacific Northwest, and from April, 1917, to December, 1918, over \$25,000,000 was disbursed by the depot. (Prior to the creation of the U.S. Army Finance Department in 1920, disbursements of the above nature were handled by the Quartermaster Corps.) By the end of the war, there were twenty-five (25) officers and two hundred fifty-eight (258) civilian employees on duty at the depot.

After World War I, Seattle Quartermaster Depot remained a sub-installation of San Francisco General Depot and was principally engaged in serving the Alaska stations of the Alaska Communications System. Two (2) commissioned officers and five (5) regular civilians were sufficient for this purpose in 1932. However, 1932 marked the beginning of another period of expansion, and as this depot was named to perform the additional and important peace-time function of procuring supplies (principally food) for the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the Fort Lewis CCC District. The addition of the function tripled existing supply activities and required the employment of fifteen (15) additional civilian personnel, and procurement operations soon amounted to from \$50,000 to \$74,000 per month. Depot office space expanded to six rooms in the Federal Office Building on First Avenue, and 2,000 square feet of leased waterfront storage space at Pier 11-B on Alaskan Way.

This space was entirely inadequate by 1940, and in December of that year the depot was moved to 1519 South Alaskan Way, present site of Seattle Port of Embarkation. In the Fall of 1941, the depot was moved again, this time to its present location at 4735 East Marginal Way (formerly the Ford Motor Company plant.) Construction of additional warehouse and office space was begun immediately.

The depot ceased to be a sub-depot of San Francisco General Depot at the time of its removal to the present location. It is now classified by the War Department as an exempted station.